

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein the outcome is a software effort estimate for the software development project.

3. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein the outcome is a software defect report for the software development project.

4. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein the outcome is a software development schedule for the software development project.

5. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein the outcome is a estimated cost for the software development project.

6. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein assigning the lifecycle factor includes extracting the lifecycle factor from a look-up table.

7. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ± wherein assigning the standard factor includes extracting the standard factor from a look-up table.

8. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein using the lifecycle factor includes using the lifecycle factor as a linear variable in the parametric rule.

9. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein using the standard factor includes using the standard factor as a linear variable in the parametric rule.

10. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein using the lifecycle factor includes using ~~the~~ an inverse of the lifecycle factor as a linear variable in the parametric rule.

11. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein using the standard factor includes using an inverse of the standard factor as a linear variable in the parametric rule.

12. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein the parametric rule further uses a size factor indicative of the number of lines of code to be written in the software development project.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the size factor is generated by using an internet point metric.

14. (original) The method according to claim 12 wherein the size factor is generated by using Domino point metric.

15. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 ~~1~~ wherein the parametric rule further uses an environmental factor indicative of environmental conditions specific to the software development project.

16. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 further including using a generic lifecycle template to generate a work product breakdown.

17. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the chosen lifecycle is mapped to the generic lifecycle template.

18. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 further including using a generic standard template to generate a document requirement report.

19. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the chosen standard is mapped to the generic standard template.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method of estimating an outcome for a software development project, comprising:

selecting a parametric rule having a plurality of variables;

choosing a project type, a lifecycle, and a standard for the software development project;

assigning a type factor responsive to choosing the project type;

assigning a lifecycle factor responsive to choosing the lifecycle;

assigning a standard factor responsive to choosing the standard;

using the type factor, the lifecycle factor, and the standard factor as variables in the parametric rule;

generating the outcome;

wherein the parametric rule uses the type factor, the lifecycle factor, the standard factor, an environment factor, and a size element, and the parametric rule is used to determine an effort, and has the general form of "EFFORT = TYPE FACTOR \* LIFECYCLE FACTOR \* STANDARD FACTOR \* ENVIRONMENT FACTOR \* SIZE ELEMENT;" and

wherein the parametric rule is in the form of  $EFFORT = \sum Env(l) * M(a) * Life * Std * KSLOC^{M(b) + \sum Env(s)}$  ("Env(l) is a linear value for environmental considerations, M(a) is a linear value for project type, Life is a linear value for the selected software lifecycle, Std is a linear value for the selected software standard, KSLOC is thousands of lines of code, M(b) is a scaling value for project type, and Env(s) is a scaling factor for environmental considerations").

23. (currently amended) The method according to either claim 22 or 24 further including using a defect parametric rule and a defect factor associated with the project type, the defect parametric rule having the form of "DEFECT = DEFECT FACTOR \* EFFORT \* (1/LIFECYCLE FACTOR) \* (1/STANDARD FACTOR)".

24. (currently amended) A method of estimating an outcome for a software development project, comprising:

selecting a parametric rule having a plurality of variables;

choosing a project type, a lifecycle, and a standard for the software development project;

assigning a type factor responsive to choosing the project type;

assigning a lifecycle factor responsive to choosing the lifecycle;

assigning a standard factor responsive to choosing the standard;

using the type factor, the lifecycle factor, and the standard factor as variables in the parametric rule;

generating the outcome;

wherein the parametric rule uses the type factor, the lifecycle factor, the standard factor, an environment factor, and a size element, and the parametric rule is used to determine an effort, and has the general form of " $EFFORT = TYPE\ FACTOR * LIFECYCLE\ FACTOR * STANDARD\ FACTOR * ENVIRONMENT\ FACTOR * SIZE\ ELEMENT$ ;" and

using a schedule parametric rule and a schedule factor associated with the project type, the schedule parametric rule having the form of " $Schedule = T(a) * Effort^{T(b) + (\sum Env(s) / 5)}$ " ( $T(a)$  is a linear value for project type,  $T(b)$  is a scaling value for project type,  $effort$  is a an estimate of resource used derived from the effort rule, and  $Env(s)$  is a scaling factor for environmental considerations).